



HAL QUINN
President & CEO

May 23, 2018

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the National Mining Association, I urge you to vote in support of the Defense Minerals amendment offered by Rep. Mark Amodei (Nev.) to the National Defense Authorization Act, which recognizes that the defense supply chain begins with ready access to minerals required by the United States armed services and the defense industrial base. This important amendment is nearly identical to H.R. 520, the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act, which has passed five times in the last three Congresses and is co-sponsored by Reps. Gosar (Ariz.), McSally (Ariz.), Hice (Ga.), McClintock (Calif.), Lamborn (Colo.), Biggs (Ariz.), Young (Alaska), LaMalfa (Calif.), Cook (Calif.), Smith (Mo.), Schweikert (Ariz.), and Tipton (Colo.).

President Trump's Executive Order 13806, *Assessing and Strengthening the Manufacturing and Defense Industrial Base and Supply Chain Resiliency of the United States*, identifies a healthy manufacturing and defense industrial base and resilient supply chains as essential to the economic strength and national security of the U.S. Minerals are the tip of that supply chain.

Our supply chains have become increasingly vulnerable as our import dependence continues to increase for the minerals we need here at home. America's dependence on foreign sources of minerals has reached historic levels, doubling over the past 20 years. Today, less than half of the mineral needs of U.S. manufacturing are met from domestically-mined minerals, and we are 100 percent import-dependent for 20 key minerals, many of which are critical to national defense applications. Lengthy seven to 10 year permitting delays present the most significant risk to mining projects in the U.S. Countries such as Canada and Australia, with comparable environmental standards to the U.S., complete the process in two to three years.

The amendment's effort to minimize delays, introduce formal review timelines and schedules for completing the minerals permitting process, and track progress against those goals while maintaining environmental safeguards, provides certainty that is required to help ensure our military has the materials it needs to secure our great nation.

As you continue to prioritize the needs of our servicemen and women, we urge you to vote in favor of Rep. Amodei's (Nev.) amendment.

Sincerely,

Hal Quinn